

As one who arrived in Congress in the midst of what became known as "the wreck of the Penn Central," I can personally attest to the gargantuan effort required to deal with massive creditor claims against the Penn Central estate, while at the same time helping to fashion Conrail as the federally created successor to the various bankrupt Northeastern freight railroads. Bob handled these daunting tasks with characteristic acumen and aplomb. Eventually, thanks to the groundwork laid during Bob's tenure with the Penn Central, Conrail became a thriving railroad that was fully privatized in 1987 and was recently purchased by Norfolk Southern and CSX.

When Ronald Reagan took office in 1981, Bob was named Federal Railroad Administrator. This was an era of massive and long overdue change, when the entire freight railroad industry was being transformed and rehabilitated through the deregulation of the Staggers Rail Act. Bob was at the center of efforts to modernize all federal policies affecting the rail transport system.

In 1983, Bob returned to private law practice, representing the French high-speed rail enterprise, TGV. Later, from 1990 to 1997, he served as general counsel to the Association of American Railroads.

Those who worked in or with the railroad industry can attest to Bob's razor-sharp mind and analytical skills. He was able easily to grasp the most complex issues, and equally important, to fashion sensible proposals for addressing those issues. Without exception, Bob was the consummate gentleman, and a constant source of dry wit and good humor. He never shrank from discussing and dissecting the rail transport policy issues of the day, on or off Capitol Hill.

Throughout his professional career, Bob remained intensely proud of his French heritage, and an unapologetic Francophile, always ready to discuss French culture, cuisine, and of course, wine. He was truly un homme extraordinaire, and will be sorely missed by all who had the good fortune to know him.

MR. TRACY JOHNSON HONORED
WITH NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION AWARD

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Tracy Johnson of Freeport, Illinois, a town in the congressional district I am privileged to represent. Tracy is a modern-day hero who works tirelessly to prevent crime in northern Illinois.

On September 29, 2000, Tracy joined seven other citizen crime fighters from around the country to receive the SBC Communications Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention. Nationally recognized comedian Joe Piscopo presented the award during the "2000 National Conference on Preventing Crime" in Washington, DC. This year's eight winners, selected from nominations across the country, have all made major impacts in their communities with their innovative crime prevention strategies.

Tracy received this special honor because he helped spearhead the Coalition for a Safe Community, a comprehensive partnership of organizations and people planning and acting to prevent crime throughout Freeport; started an education and action crime prevention program for youth; and developed a job training and placement center for young mothers, among other activities.

I wish to thank Tracy and the numerous individuals with whom he works for their tireless efforts to make our communities safer.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the Republic of China's 89th National Day approaches, I wish to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for their continuing economic success and political reforms.

On this festive occasion, it is my hope that Taiwan and the Chinese mainland will soon begin a serious dialogue on reunification issues. The time is approaching for both sides to work out their differences and find a way to co-exist without antagonism. I am certain the people on Taiwan look forward to the day when they will be able to celebrate October 10th without the fear of a bellicose neighbor threatening not only their political freedom, but also their very lives.

I also would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Ambassador C.J. Chen, who recently returned to Washington after several years in Taipei. A distinguished diplomat, Ambassador Chen is now Taiwan's chief representative in the United States. Ambassador Chen is an industrious and experienced diplomat who has worked diligently for many years to strengthen ties between the United States and the people of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has become a beacon of democracy in an area of the world which has known authoritarianism for centuries. The upcoming celebration of National Day in the Republic of China is a timely reminder of the importance of our friendship and support for Taiwan.

AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS IN
THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, in 1998, Congress passed legislation to raise the H-1B caps to 115,000 visas per year. That legislation included important provisions to ensure that American workers would not be displaced by those holding H-1B visas.

This included requirements for employers to file applications with the Department of Labor showing that they will pay the H-1B worker the "required wage rate" and that a strike or lockout was not occurring at the job site.

Unfortunately, that legislation was not enough and already the 115,000 H-1B visa limit for Fiscal Year 2000 has been reached. Tuesday, the Senate passed S. 2045 to increase the H-1B cap to 195,000 through 2003 and included several important worker training and education provisions. It is now time for the House to pass this bill as well.

This bill includes provisions so that 55% of the H-1B education and training fees go toward Department of Labor demonstration programs and projects to provide training for workers. Twenty-two percent of the fees will go toward low-income scholarships and fifteen percent of the fees will go toward National Science Foundation grants for math, technology and science education in primary and secondary schools. It also provides after-school technology grants to encourage youth education in these subject areas.

Earlier this year, I cosponsored "The Helping to Improve Technology Education and Achievement Act of 2000" introduced by Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN and Congressman DAVID DREIER. This bill was critical to the debate on this issue and I am proud to have worked with those sponsors, as well as with members on both sides of the aisle who have been dedicated to bringing this bill to the floor.

I recognize the enormous difficulties that the current worker shortage poses to high tech companies. At the same time, however, I want to insure that we do all that we can to reach the best and brightest in America and providing opportunity for and training to American workers as well. Today's bill is attentive to both of these needs. I urge all of my colleagues to vote for S. 2045.

PASS THE CARAT ACT: H.R. 5147

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 4, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many of us are gravely concerned about the role the trade in diamonds has in fueling some of the most brutal wars in Africa. Much is made of the fact that the number of these diamonds is small—between 4 and 15 percent. The reality is that blood diamonds account for 30 percent of the profits the industry earns.

The link between diamonds and war is well-documented, and I urge our colleagues to get the complete story by requesting a briefing by U.S. intelligence agencies. In the meantime, I am submitting for the RECORD a selection of excerpts from respected publications. This is by no means exhaustive, and it omits reports on the industry's recent efforts to repair its damaged reputation.

I hope this selection is useful to the American public—which buys two-thirds of the world's diamonds. And I urge my colleagues to review this situation and join in efforts to combat this terrible trade.

"The flow of uncut diamonds from rebel-held mines to market centers around the